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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 VATICAN 000579

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/WE (D.MENNUTTI); DRL (T.FARR); EAP/CM
(M.KOEHLER)

BEIJING PASS AMCONSUL CHENGDU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/06/2012

TAGS: [CH PHUM PINR TW PHUM PINR TW PHUM PINR TW VT VTCH VTCH](#)

SUBJECT: VATICAN AGENCY TO LAUNCH LENTEN MEDIA APPEAL FOR
CHINESE CLERICS.

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CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR NICHOLSON, REASONS 1.5 (B,D)

11. (C) FIDES, A VATICAN NEWS AGENCY, IS SET TO LAUNCH A LENTEN APPEAL NEXT WEEK FOR THE FREEDOM OF MISSING OR DETAINED UNDERGROUND CATHOLIC CLERGY. FATHER BERNARDO CERVELLERA, FIDES DIRECTOR AND CHINA SPECIALIST, PROVIDED AMBASSADOR AN ADVANCE LIST OF MORE THAN 30 NAMES IN ORDER TO FOREWARN THE WHITE HOUSE BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO CHINA. THE APPEAL WILL COMPRISE SOME 40 CLERGYMEN IN TOTAL, WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL CLERIC LINKED TO A DAY OF LENT. (LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 13 AND LASTS 40 DAYS.) THE LIST (SEE PARA 5) CONSISTS OF UNDERGROUND CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND PRIESTS WHO ARE PERSECUTED BY PRC AUTHORITIES ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR REFUSAL TO COLLABORATE WITH THE OFFICIAL "CATHOLIC PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION." THOUGH NOT SEEKING TO EMBARRASS THE PRESIDENT DURING THE CHINA VISIT, FIDES WILL LIKELY CAPITALIZE ON MEDIA ATTENTION IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CHINA.

12. (C) FATHER CERVELLERA ASSERTED THAT HIS VATICAN SUPERIORS HAVE APPROVED THIS LENTEN PRAYER INITIATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH. HE CLAIMED THE PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT OF CARDINAL SEPE, THE HEAD OF DE PROPAGANDE FIDE, A.K.A. THE CONGREGATION FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES, WHICH ALSO OVERSEES THE FIDES NEWS SERVICE. (NOTE: DE PROPAGANDE FIDE IS THE VATICAN MINISTRY CHARGED WITH THE SPREAD OF CATHOLICISM AND THE WELFARE OF FRONTIER CHURCH COMMUNITIES, SUCH AS IN CHINA.) CERVELLERA ADDED HE IS ANGLING FOR A PAPAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE FIDES INITIATIVE, PERHAPS DURING THE POPE'S WEEKLY STATEMENT AT THE SUNDAY ANGELUS PRAYER. HOWEVER, NO PAPAL INTERVENTION IS PLANNED AT

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PRESENT, HE ADMITTED.

13. (C) COMMENT: FATHER CERVELLERA IS SEEKING TO LINK THE FIDES INITIATIVE TO THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT. HENCE, THE EFFORT, STILL INCOMPLETE, TO MUSTER FORTY NAMES. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, WHICH FALLS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT, IS CLEARLY IN THE FOREGROUND OF CERVELLERA'S THINKING, EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR. CERVELLERA CONFIDED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE PERSONALLY GIVES GREAT CREDIT TO THE INTERVENTION OF PRESIDENT BUSH FOR THE REDUCED SENTENCE -- TWO YEARS RATHER THAN THE DEATH PENALTY -- METED OUT TO A CHINESE CONVICTED OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (IN BIBLES). MOREOVER, HE NOTED GRATEFULLY THE HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL BY AMBASSADOR RANDT IN BEIJING ON BEHALF OF BISHOP SU, AS WELL AS OTHER NON-CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS LEADERS. CLEARLY, FATHER CERVELLERA WOULD WELCOME A USG ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PLIGHT OF UNDERGROUND CATHOLIC CLERGY.

14. (U) BACKGROUND: FATHER CERVELLERA IS A COMMITTED VATICAN ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE UNDERGROUND CATHOLIC CHURCH. A MISSIONARY PRIEST PREVIOUSLY POSTED TO HONG KONG, CERVELLERA MAINTAINS EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITHIN CHINA. UNDER HIS DIRECTION, FIDES, A VATICAN INTERNET NEWS ORGANIZATION, HAS BEEN PUSHING AN AGENDA OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO CHINA.

LIST FROM FIDES

15. (C) THE FIDES LIST FOLLOWS. BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS ARE DRAWN
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DIRECTLY FROM THE ORIGINAL FIDES TEXT. CHINESE FAMILY NAMES
RETAIN THE SPELLING IN THE ORIGINAL ITALIAN TEXT.

A) MISSING / ARRESTED BISHOPS:

MONSIGNOR JAMES SU ZHIMIN (BAODING, HEBI DIOCESE), 70 YEARS
OLD. MISSING SINCE HIS 1996 ARREST.

MSGR. FRANCESCO AN SHUXIN (BAODING, HEBEI), 52 YEARS OLD.

MISSING SINCE HIS 1997 ARREST.

MSGR. LI HONGYE (LUOYANG, HENAN), 81 YEARS OLD. ARRESTED IN
12001.

MSGR. HAN DINGXIAN (YONGNIAM/HANDAM, HEBEI), 64 YEARS OLD.
ARRESTED DECEMBER 1999. HAS SPENT MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS
TOTAL IN PRISON.

NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE(S)

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AIT-03	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00
	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00
	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OPIC-01	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/011W					

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O 061032Z FEB 02
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE
AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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MSGR. COSMA SHI ENXIANG (YIXIAN, HEBEI), 81 YEARS OLD.
ARRESTED APRIL 13, 2001. HAS SPENT MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN
PRISON. PREVIOUSLY ARRESTED IN DECEMBER 1990 AND RELEASED IN
11993.

1B. BISHOPS PERIODICALLY DETAINED AND FORBIDDEN OR BLOCKED
FROM THE EXERCISE OF THEIR MINISTRY.

MSGR. BARTHOLOMEW YU CENGTI (HANZHONG, SHAANXI), 72 YEARS
OLD. UNDER HOUSE ARREST SINCE DECEMBER 2001. FORBIDDEN
CONTACT WITH OTHER RELIGIOUS.

MSGR. JOSEPH FAN ZHONGLIANG (SHANGHAI), 83 YEARS OLD.

MSGR. HAN JINGTAO (JILIN), 80 YEARS OLD.

MSGR. JULIUS JAI ZHIGUO (ZHENGDDING, HEBEI), 66 YEARS OLD.

MSGR. JOHN YANG SHUDAO (FUZHOU, FUJIAN), 82 YEARS OLD.
ARCHBISHOP YANG SPENT CIRCA 30 YEARS IN PRISON. ARRESTED IN
1955 AFTER HIS REFUSAL TO JOIN THE PATRIOTIC CHURCH.
RELEASED IN 1981. ARRESTED AGAIN IN 1988, RELEASED THREE
YEARS LATER.

MSGR. THOMAS ZENG JINGMU (YUJIANG, JIANGXI), 81 YEARS OLD.

MSGR. ZHANG WEIZHU (XINXIANG, HENAN), 43 YEARS OLD. AN
ACTIVE PASTOR AND FOUNDER OF TWO RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

MSGR. XIE SHIGUANG (MINGDONG, FUJIAN), 84 YEARS OLD.
DETAINED OCTOBER 1999, INTERROGATED, AND RELEASED. KEPT UNDER
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TIGHT SURVEILLANCE.

MSGR. JAMES LIN XILI (WENZHOUE, ZHEJIANG), 82 YEARS OLD.
ARRESTED SEPTEMBER 1999, RELEASED JANUARY 2002. FIDES
REPORTS HIS ARREST WAS PART OF A VIOLENT LOCAL PATRIOTIC
ASSOCIATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNDERGROUND CATHOLICS.

C: MISSING / ARRESTED PRIESTS.

FIDES NOTE: MOSTLY FROM HEBI, WHERE THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH IS STRONGLY CONCENTRATED:

FATHER CUI XINGANG (QINGYUAN).

FR. GUO YIBAO. ARRESTED DURING EASTER 2000. IMPRISONED IN XUSHUI.

FR. LI JIANBO (MANCHENG), 35 YEARS OLD. ARRESTED APRIL 19, 2001 IN XILINHAUTE (INNER MONGOLIA).

FR. LU GENYOU, ALSO SPELLED GENJUN. ARRESTED MARCH 31, 2001 BEFORE EASTER. SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS OF FORCED LABOR IN THE PRISON OF GAOYANG.

FR. WANG ZHENHE (ANJIAZHUANG). ARRESTED APRIL 14, 1999. IMPRISONED IN XUSHUI.

FR. YIN ZHENGJUN. ARRESTED JANUARY 27, 2001 IN BEIHEZHUANG (QINGYUAN). SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS OF REEDUCATION AND FORCED LABOR. IN BAODING PRISON.

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FR. ZHANG CHUNGUANG. ARRESTED ON EVE OF PENTECOST, 2001. IN XUSHUI PRISON, TOGETHER WITH FR. GUO YIBAO.

TWO INNER MONGOLIA PRIESTS ARRESTED IN 2002:

FR. WANG ZEYI, 31 YEARS OLD.
FR. ZHANG SULAI, 50 YEARS OLD.

FR. JIANG SUNIAN (ZHEJIANG). ARRESTED NOVEMBER 23. FIDES REMARKS THAT FR. JIANG SUNIAN IS ONE OF SIX PRIESTS KEPT IN CONFINEMENT BY THE WENZHOU POLICE BUT DOES NOT PROVIDE ADDITIONAL NAMES.

FR. JOHN GAO KEXIAN (YANTAI, SHANDONG), 73 YEARS OLD. CONFINED OCTOBER 1999.

FR. FENG YUNXIANG (FUJIAN). ARRESTED GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2001.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AIT-03	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00
	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EAP-00
	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OPIC-01	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
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D: PRIESTS RECENTLY RELEASED BUT LIMITED IN EXERCISE OF THEIR

MINISTRY

FR. HU TONGXIAN (HEBEI). ARRESTED AND BEATEN CHRISTMAS 1998. SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS OF REEDUCATION AND FORCED LABOR IN GAOYANG. RELEASED OCTOBER 14, 2001 BUT FORBIDDEN TO MINISTER AS A PRIEST.

FR. JI ZENGWEI (BEIHEZHUANG, QINGYUAN, HEBEI). ARRESTED DURING ASH WEDNESDAY CEREMONIES, 2000. RELEASED FEBRUARY 5, 2001. SPORADICALLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

FR. XIE GUOLIN (XUGUOZHUANG, GAOYANG, HEBEI). ARRESTED NOVEMBER 4, 1999. ALTERNATED BETWEEN HOUSE ARREST AND JAIL. RELEASED JANUARY 22, 2001 DUE TO ILLNESS.

FR. LIAO HAIQING (YUJIANG, JIANGXI), 72 YEARS OLD. ARRESTED JULY 10, 2001. PREVIOUSLY SPENT 17 YEARS IN PRISON IN THE 50S AND THE 80S. SPORADICALLY RE-DETAINED AND RE-RELEASED.

THREE PRIESTS FROM SHAANXI ARRESTED NOVEMBER 2, 2001 AND ENROLLED FOR REEDUCATION: FATHER DU BAOZANG, FR. ZAN JAINZHOU, FR. ZAN SHENGRANG. RELEASED DECEMBER 7, 2001. FORBIDDEN CONTACT WITH PARISHES AND THEIR BISHOP. NICHOLSON

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